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**State Agricultural Development Board Approves \$25,000 for Shelby County 4-H  
Agricultural Education Program**

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board voted today to approve a \$25,000 grant request submitted by the Shelby County 4-H program to establish a variety of agricultural education efforts. The award will allow the local 4-H program to purchase training equipment to instruct young people in livestock artificial insemination, milking, and beef cattle production. The application was reviewed by the Shelby County Agricultural Development Council and forwarded to the state board as a high priority item. Funds come from \$986,850 set aside for Shelby County in the Agricultural Development Fund established with half of Kentucky's tobacco settlement proceeds.

Governor Patton praised the Board's action to boost the efforts of Shelby County young people interested in agriculture.

"This action means that the young people of Shelby County will have expanded opportunities to learn about career options in agriculture other than tobacco. This is an investment in the future of Kentucky agriculture, the future of our rural communities, and in diversification efforts in one of our state's most progressive agricultural counties," said Governor Paul Patton.

The award was made as one of eleven projects approved by the Board during its meeting today. The Board approved a total of \$4,443,000 in state level projects, and \$403,600 in a variety of county-level programs, including the Shelby County 4-H Agricultural Education Program.

"I remember fondly my experiences in 4-H and the doors it opened for me," Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith said. "I am pleased that the Board has committed this funding to providing opportunities for the next generation of Kentuckians in agriculture and agriculture-related fields."

"I'm happy that we are able to promote agriculture in Shelby County amongst our youth," said Shelby County Cooperative Extension Agent for 4-H and Youth Development Regina Browning. "They will be the future agricultural leaders and deserve every opportunity possible."